

Replaced By  
ART 34 A.MDT

- 12 -

# CLAIMS

1. A method for ranking creators of a set of documents in order of their expertise in a subject including the steps of:  
  
5 selecting documents from the set of documents that refer to the subject to create a subject related subset of documents;  
  
selecting extracts from the subset of documents that refer to the subject;  
  
analysing the linguistic structure of the extracts; and  
  
using the analysis to rank the creators.  
  
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2. A method for ranking creators according to claim 1 wherein the step of analysing the linguistic structure of the extracts includes;  
  
isolating verbs in the extracts to create a set of verbs for classification, and  
  
15 classifying each isolated verb in the set of verbs according to a predetermined hierarchy.
3. A method for ranking creators of a set of documents according to claim 2 including the further step of;  
  
20 creating the predetermined hierarchy by mapping isolated verbs to an illocutionary verb in a predefined set of illocutionary verbs and;  
  
classifying the mapped isolated verbs according to the Speech Act Theory category of the corresponding illocutionary verb.
- 25 4. A method for ranking creators of a set of documents according to claim 3 including the further step of;  
  
filtering isolated verbs not having a predefined illocutionary verb and thus not successfully mapped to the set of illocutionary verbs and;

- 13 -

checking for synonyms of the unmapped isolated verbs, that have a predefined illocutionary verb and;

classifying the unmapped isolated verbs according to the Speech Act Theory of the corresponding illocutionary verb of it synonym.

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5. A method for ranking creators according to any of claims 2 to 5 wherein isolating verbs includes the step of;

decomposing sentences in the extracts into a group of grammatically-related phrases, such as "noun", "adverb", "adjective", "verb" or "preposition".

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6. A method for ranking creators of a set of documents according to any preceding claim including the step of;

weighting extracts to favour those written in the first person over those written in the third person.

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7. A method for ranking creators according to any preceding claim wherein the set of documents is e-mail communications.

- 20 8. A computer programme executable to rank creators of a set of documents in order of their expertise in a subject according to the method of any preceding claim.

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9. A computer programmed to rank creators of a set of documents in order of their expertise in a subject according to the method of any of claims 1 to 7.

- 14 -

10. A computer to rank creators of a set of documents in order of their expertise including means for:

selecting documents from the set of documents that refer to the subject to create a subject related subset of documents;

- 5 selecting extracts from the subset of documents that refer to the subject;

analysing the linguistic structure of the extracts; and

using the analysis to rank the creators.